

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 56.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1882.

FIVE DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.

Insurances.

YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up) £1,200,000
PERMANENT RESERVE £1,200,000
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND £1,200,000

TOTAL CAPITAL and
ACCUMULATIONS, 2nd
April, 1881 £3,600,000

DIRECTORS.
F. B. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.
M. W. BOND, Esq., J. W. MEYERINK, Esq.,
J. H. FISKE, Esq., F. D. HITCH, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.
Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.
Messrs. HARTING BROTHERS & Co.
Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent,
68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICES granted on MARINE RISKS to all
parts of the World.
Subject to a charge of 12 per cent. for interest
on shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the
UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually dis-
tributed among all Contributors of Business in
proportion to the premia paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd January, 1882. [53]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED) \$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [81]

LE CERCLE TRANSPORTS.
SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME D'ASSURANCE
MARITIME MARSEILLE.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED 15,000,000 Francs.
CAPITAL PAID-UP 5,750,000 Francs.

The Undersigned, having been appointed
Agents of the above Company, are prepared to
GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all
parts of the World.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [4]

THE CITY OF LONDON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL £3,000,000; PAID-UP £200,000.
PAID UP RESERVE FUND £50,000.

The Undersigned, having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are prepared to
ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.,
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882. [165]

THE SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND.

CAPITAL, £1,000,000 (One Million Sterling).
UNLIMITED LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The Undersigned, having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are prepared to
ACCEPT FIRE AND MARINE RISKS at Current
Rates, allowing usual discounts.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.,
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882. [164]

To be Let.

TO LET.

OFFICES in No. 13, QUEEN'S ROAD
CENTRAL, ALSO
No. 4, SEYMOUR TERRACE,
No. 9, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
Apply to

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Hongkong, 25th March, 1882. [74]

TO BE LET,
FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1882,
THAT LARGE AND COMMODIOUS HOUSE,
No. 8, ARBUTHNOT ROAD, at present in
the occupation of Mr. J. D. HUTCHISON.

Apply to
J. A. CARVALHO,
Hongkong, 9th March, 1882. [147]

TO LET.

A LARGE GRANITE GODOWN, in "BLUE
BUILDINGS," Praya East, with immediate
possession.
Apply to

J. M. GUEDES,
33, WELLINGTON-STREET,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1882. [49]

Intimations.

THE Undersigned have been appointed
AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD
of UNDERWRITERS.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [6]

J. AND R. TENNENT'S ALE AND
PORTER.

DAVID CORSAIR & SONS,
MERCHANT NAVY
NAVY BOILED
LONG FLAX
CROWN

ARNOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [5]

RECORD OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN
SHIPPING.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [3]

For Sale.

H. FOURNIER & CO.

HAVE FOR SALE, JUST RECEIVED, EX
FRENCH MAIL STEAMER
A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF
FANCY GOODS.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
FANCY PLAYING CARDS.

CRACKERS, BONDONS (Assorted).
CHOCOLATE CREAM.

CHOCOLATE MENIER.
H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
FIGS, MALAGA RAISINS.

TABLE PLUMS.
FRUITS IN JUICE (Assorted).
CONFITURES DE ST. JAMES

(in Bottles and Tins).
SYRUPS (Assorted).
HUNTLY and PALMER'S BISCUITS.

ALMONDS and NUTS.
VANILLA, PATE DE FOIE GRAS.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
NOIX DE VEAU TRUFFEE (in Tins).

COTELETTE DE VEAU (in Tins).
VEAU ROTI, RIS DE VEAU (in Tins).

FRICANDAU (Assorted). TRUFFES.
VEGETABLES (Assorted).
ANCHOVIES in OIL. CAVIAR.

SARDINES in Lemon Juice.
SARDINES in Tomatoes.

SARDINES in Oil.
H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
FRENCH and ENGLISH MUSTARD.

SAUSAGES (Assorted).
LYONS SAUSAGES.

FRENCH and SPANISH OLIVES.
FRENCH ISIGNY BUTTER (in 1 and
2 lbs. Tins).

MACCARONI (Assorted) Paste for
Soups, Letters, stars, &c. TAPIOCA.

FINE-GROUND MOCHA COFFEE.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
AN ASSORTMENT OF CHEESE.

GRUYERE, ROQUEFORT,
DUTCH, CALIFORNIA, CREAM.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
FRENCH TOBACCO AND
CIGARETTES.

ASSORTED PERFUMERY
FROM PINAUD and PIVERT of PARIS.

A large quantity of
FRENCH MINERAL WATERS
in Pints of 100 bottles per Case.

CORK STOPPERS,
for Soda and other Bottles.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
AN ASSORTMENT OF CLARETS

In Bottles and Wood.
CHATEAU LAROSE.

CHATEAU LAFFITTE.
CHATEAU MARGAUX.

ST. EMILION, MEDOC.
H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
AN ASSORTMENT OF WINES.

SAUTERNE, PORTO, SHERRY.
MARSALA.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
AN ASSORTMENT OF LIQUEURS.

CHARTREUSE (Pints and Quarts).
BENEDICTINE (Pints and Quarts).

MARASCHINO, CURACAO.
ANISETTE (Marie Brigard).

ANGOSTURA BITTERS.
BOKER'S BITTERS.

KIRSCHWASSER, PEPPERMINT.
VERMOUTH (Nolly Prati).

VERMOUTH (Turino).
H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED

A LARGE STOCK OF FANCY SILK
UMBRELLAS.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
A VARIETY OF OTHER GOODS.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,
Corner of D'Aguiar and Wellington-streets,
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 22nd March, 1882. [17]

Intimations.

SAFLE & CO.'S SHOWROOMS.

SAYLE & CO.

BEG TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY INTEND HAVING
THEIR
GREAT CLEARANCE SALE
DURING

THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES AT REDUCED PRICES.
TOYS WILL BE SOLD AT HALF-PRICE.

VICTORIA EXCHANGE, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, January 30th, 1882. [79]

KELLY & WALSH.

WILL SELL DURING THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 1ST, A QUANTITY OF SLIGHTLY
SOILED MUSIC AT 25 CENTS EACH PIECE, OR 5 PIECES FOR \$1.00.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SELECTION—
SONGS.

Please give me a Penny, Christy.
Grandfather's Clock.
Where there's love at home.
Oh! gently breathe, Christy.
A man's a man, Scotch song.
The Wolf, Old Ballad.
Those Evening Hells.
Billiards on the Brain.
Love sounds the Alarm, Handel.
A sea song, H. J. Stark.
Nobody's Darling, Christy.
Hear! Hear! Macdormott.
Down among the dead Men.
Little Brown Jug, Jolly Nash.
He isn't a marrying Man, Skelly.
True as the stars are shining.
Ballad's Daughter of Islington.
Bedouin's Love Song, L'Inuit.
Vicar of Bray, Old Ballad.
Silver Threads among the Gold.
Co-operation, Arthur Roberts.
The Little stranger, Newell.
Graceful as a fairy, Howard Paul.
'Tis but a little faded flower.
Men of Harlech.
Mollie Darling's Reply.
Strangers Jet, Claribel.
Angels ever bright and fair.
What though I trace, Handel.
Hearts of Oak, Old Ballad.
Home with the spring.
Autumn Leaves, Hullah.
Come, ever smiling Liberty.
Come, Birdie, come, Christy.

KELLY & WALSH—HONGKONG. [1]

Intimations.

ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY.

OWING to the Company's unprecedented
success, a
SECOND SERIES
OF

SUBSCRIPTION OPERAS

has been arranged. The series will include—

"LUCREZIA BORGIA."
"SAFFO."
"IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA."
"L'ELISIR D'AMORE."
"POLIUTO."
"FAUST."

The Subscription List is NOW OPEN at Messrs.
KELLY & WALSH.

Hongkong, 28th March, 1882. [189]

SEALED TENDERS will be received by the
Undersigned on or before NOON, THURSDAY,
the 13th proximo, for the supply of 1,600
tons of TARKASIMA COAL, deliverable at the
Naval Coal Depot, Kowloon, in accordance with
the conditions on the printed Tender, which can
be obtained on application to the Naval Store-
keeper's Office.

The right to reject the lowest or any Tender is
reserved.

E. B. JOREY,
Naval Storekeeper.

H.M. Naval Yard,
Hongkong, 15th March, 1882. [168]

E. CASSIMBOY.

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE,
Nos. 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14,
BEACONSFIELD ARCADE,

Opposite the City Hall.
HOUSES OR ROOMS FURNISHED THROUGHOUT
ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

FURNITURE, PIANOS, &c.,
FOR SALE OR HIRE.

A GOOD SELECTION OF BOOKS.
Some Choice Original Oil Paintings and Water
Colours, Chromes, Engravings, &c.

A FEW PIECES OF OLD PORCELAIN AND OTHER
WARE.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE CURIOS.
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882. [163]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

A MILLAR & CO., PLUMBERS,
GASFITTERS &c., &c., have
REMOVED their Office and Warehouse to No. 6,
BEACONSFIELD ARCADE, where Orders for
Fittings and Repairs will be punctually attended to.

Hongkong, 11th November, 1881. [25]

G. FALCONER & CO.
WATCH AND CHRONOMETER
MANUFACTURERS
AND

JEWELLERS.
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,
CHARTS AND BOOKS.

No. 45, QUEEN'S-ROAD CENTRAL. [2]

WILLIAM SCHMIDT & CO.
GUNMAKERS AND AMUNITION
DEALERS,
BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

Arms, Ammunitions, and Requisites of
every description.

Arms Repaired, Cleaned, or Converted at
moderate charges.

Sporting Guns and Ammunition always
on hand. [28]

STAG HOTEL,
QUEEN'S-ROAD CENTRAL.

GOOD ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS.
—ENGLISH AND AMERICAN BILLIARDS.

Tiffin at One o'clock, Dinner at 7.30.

This Hotel is most centrally situated and
within easy distance of the principal landing
places. [12]

J. COOK, Proprietor.

For Sale.

FOR SALE.

GENUINE MADEIRA WINE, 1879,
\$22 PER DOZEN.

OLD SUPERIOR PORT (BASTARDOS),
\$15 PER DOZEN.

Apply to
L. THEVENIN,
Hongkong Hotel Building.
Hongkong, 21st March, 1882. [178]

FOR SALE.

MESSRS. W. & T. LOCKETT'S Celebrated
Brands Threlfall's Export PALE ALE
and Findlater's DUBLIN STOUT, in Pints
and Quarts.

Fine OLD PORT, in Cases of One Dozen.
Also,
Sillery Mousseaux VIN DE CHAMPAGNE,
in Cases of 2 doz. Pints and 1 doz. Quarts.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.,
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882. [166]

FOR SALE.

G. H. MUMM & Co.'s CHAMPAGNE.
QUARTS \$22 per Case.
PINTS \$23 per Case.

Apply to
MELCHERS & Co.,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1882. [132]

ECA DA SILVA AND CO.,
QUEEN'S ROAD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED
EX FRENCH MAIL STEAMER "DJEMNAH,"
MALAGA FRESH GRAPES, GENTLEMEN'S ready-
made OVERCOATS, Embroidered and Fine White
LACE, BALL HANDKERCHIEFS, Ladies' and Gentle-
men's Finest White LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS,
White TRAINED SKIRTS for BALL DRESSES,
White KID GLOVES, Embroidered and Fancy
FANS.

Great Variety in ORIZA PERFUME TOILET
REQUISITES, comprising—ORIZA NEW MOWN
HAY, ORIZA OPOFONAX BOUQUET, ORIZA
WATER, ORIZA SCOTCH LAVENDER, ORIZA LYS,
ORIZA ESSI, HELIOTROPE.

ORIZA POWDER, ORIZA DENTIFRICE, ORIZA
SOAP, ORIZA HAIR OIL.

&c., &c., &c.
ECA DA SILVA & Co.,
Hongkong, 23rd November, 1881. [9]

A FONG, PHOTOGRAPHER,
HAS A LARGER COLLECTION OF VIEWS
than any other in CHINA.

Miniatures Painted on Ivory from \$7.

Oil Paintings on Canvas from \$5.

Cartes de Visite, Cabinet, and all other styles
of Portraits at equally moderate prices executed
under the supervision and management of

D. K. GRIFFITH,
Studio 8, Queen's-road.

CHS. J. GAUPP & CO.
CHRONOMETER, WATCH, AND
CLOCK-MAKERS,
JEWELLERS, SILVER-SMITHS, AND
OPTICIANS.

CHARTS AND BOOKS.
SOLE AGENTS
for Louis Audemars' Watches; awarded the
highest Prizes at every Exhibition;
and for Voligünder and Sohn's
CELEBRATED OPERA GLASSES, MARINE
GLASSES, AND SPECTACLES.

No. 38, Queen's-road CENTRAL. [10]

C. L. THEVENIN
COMMISSION AGENT,
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT.

CHAMPAGNE, BURGUNDIES, COG-
NACS, SHERRIES, LIQUEURS,
WHISKY, &c., &c.

AN EXCELLENT ASSORTMENT OF
PERFUMERY.

FRENCH BOOTS AND SHOES,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

HONGKONG HOTEL BUILDING. [16]

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions
to Sell by Public Auction, on
SATURDAY,

the April 1st, 1882, at Two P.M., at No. 1,
MOSQUE-STREET, the whole of the
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

Comprising:—Drawing Room Suite, Side
Tables, Sofas, Mirrors, Pictures, Music-stands,
Bedsteads, Toilet Tables, Whatnots, Dining
Table, Vienna Chairs, Fenders, Lamps, Books,
Curtains and Poles, Lustres, Crystal Chandelier,
Shower Bath, Musical Box, Fire Stove with
Pipes Complete.

&c., &c., &c.
A GRAND PIANO, by CHICKERING of Boston.
A FIRST CLASS AMERICAN ORGAN.

TWO PONY CARRIAGES, by LENNY, of
Croydon.

Catalogues will be issued, and the furniture on
view on the morning of the Sale.

ECA DA SILVA & Co.,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1882. [187]

Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

THE Steamship
SUEZ.

Captain Dodd, having arrived from the above
Port, Consignees of Goods are hereby requested
to send in their Bills of Lading to the Under-
signed for Countersignature, and to take im-
mediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Steamer,
with the exception of Treasure, will be at once
landed and stored at Consignees' risk and ex-
pense, and no Fire Insurance will be effected.

All Claims against the Steamer must be pre-
sented to the Undersigned on or before the 8th
of April, or they will not be recognised.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 29th March, 1882. [191]

Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE
OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR,
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL DONOVAN.

THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA
COMPANY,
WILL GIVE THEIR
SIXTH PERFORMANCE
THIS EVENING,
30TH MARCH, 1882,

when will be produced VERDI'S Grand Opera,
"L'ATRAVATTA."

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.
VIOLETTA VALERY Signora PINELLI.
FLORA BEROVIO Signora BERTOLINI.

ALFREDO GERMONT Signor VANZETTI.
GIORGIO GERMONT (Suo Padre) Signor CIOCCO.
GASTONE Signor BRUNNETTI.

BARONE DOUPHOL Signor PATERNIO.
DOITORE GRANVILLE Signor CORTI.
GIUSEPPE Signor DROSILA BERTOLINI.

ANNINA Signora DROSILA BERTOLINI.

The Second Subscription List is now open at
Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
FAMILY TICKETS.—Admitting 3 Persons,
6 Nights \$30.00

SINGLE TICKET.—Admitting 1 Person, 6
Nights \$14.00

STALLS.—For 3 Persons, 6 Nights \$20.00
STALLS.—For 1 Person, 6 Nights \$10.00

PRICES OF ADMISSION:
Dress Circle \$3.00.
Stalls \$2.00.
Pit \$1.00.

Tickets may be obtained of Messrs. KELLY &
WALSH, and at the Doors on the night of the
Performance.

Doors open at 8.30 P.M., Performance to com-
mence at 9 P.M. sharp.

Ladies unaccompanied by Gentlemen cannot
be admitted.

A. HÖFLICH,
Director and Manager.

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DRUGGISTS,
GENERAL CHEMISTS,
AND

Manufacturers of the following

AERATED WATERS,

SODA, TONIC, SARSAPARILLA,
AND POTASH, LEMONADE,
GINGERADE, RASPBERRYADE,
AND PHOSPHORIC CHAMPAGNE.Deliveries in Town and Harbour from
7 A.M. to 7 P.M.SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

Prompt Attention given to Coast Orders.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.
SHANGHAI PHARMACY,
SHANGHAI.
CANTON DISPENSARY,
CANTON.
THE DISPENSARY,
FOOCHOW.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed
"The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and
not to individuals by name. Correspondents are requested
to forward their name and address with communications
addressed to the Editor, not for publication but as evidence
of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on
one side of the paper only, and rejected communications can
not be returned. Advertisements and Subscriptions which
are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
countermanded.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1882.

Is discussing a question of the character of the alleged scandalous treatment of the Chinese passengers on board the steamship *Ocean* by the authorities of New South Wales, it is obviously to the interests of the public that the whole truth should be known. It could serve no useful aim or end at this late stage, when as a matter of fact the question may be considered for all practical purposes finally settled, either to gloss over the action of the Sydney Government, or to imitate the Hon. F. BULKELEY JOHNSON'S Exeter Hall system of highly coloring in most sensational phraseology—better adapted for the columns of "a penny dreadful" than to be addressed to the intelligent members of the Chamber of Commerce—a grievance which had no special concern with Hongkong, and the incidents and results of which, moreover, have been most grossly exaggerated. If the honorable member referred to is anxious to constitute himself general champion and special apologist for unjustly or cruelly treated humanity throughout the world, his proper sphere is London, where he will find many congenial spirits ready to aid him in a Quixotic crusade against everything and everybody in the four quarters of the globe. The class of eloquence indulged in by Mr. Johnson on the *Ocean* scandal might suit an ordinary Exeter Hall audience; it probably would cause universal weeping and wailing at a "blue-stocking" tea meeting; but it is utterly thrown away upon practical business men whose colonial experiences are not to be imposed upon by any amount of euphemism and saucer gush. Judged by his general observations on the subject, and that painful reference to a letter from a friend in Sydney, which stated that the matter had been brought before the Legislative Council, and that strong hopes were entertained that some compensation would be eventually awarded to the sufferers, it is charitable to conclude that Mr. Johnson's actual knowledge of the whole affair, and of Australian life, laws, manners, and customs, are of the most superficial description, founded, in fact, upon a cursory glance at the extraordinary document signed "HENRY WEBBER," which appeared in our columns on Monday. There were several gentlemen seated round the table at the Chamber of Commerce who could have utterly demolished the house of cards Mr. Johnson went so far out of his way to erect; but they doubtless considered the game not worth the candle. We will therefore take it upon ourselves to place the public in possession of the whole truth—and nothing but the truth—of the whole of the proceedings which led to the publication of Captain WEBBER'S manifesto, and to the subsequent action of the Hon. F. BULKELEY JOHNSON.

When Captain HENRY WEBBER went through the formality of swearing before an attorney to the statement made by him, "to make the position more secure," as he expresses it, and to contradict untrue statements which he thought must have

"originated from interested parties," he showed the same lamentable lack of common sense and ordinary discretion, which is not merely apparent from the beginning to the end of the statement, but which characterised his action throughout the whole of the proceedings which resulted so unfortunately. One can easily understand that Captain WEBBER, when he wrote his plain, unvarnished statement of facts, was anxious to set himself right with his owners; but we must express our regret that his literary production was not published at the time of writing, when a comparison between his recital of the proceedings and those emanating from other equally authentic sources—especially that which appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*—would have enabled the public to be in a position to judge of the relative merits of the case from a view of both sides of the question. We will now relate what actually transpired during the voyage of the *Ocean*, and our statements can be corroborated by a reference to the *Sydney* newspapers, and to a gentleman at present in Hongkong who was a passenger in the steamer.

It would serve no useful end to do more than touch lightly on the particulars of the *Ocean*'s trip from Hongkong to Sydney, as the "barbarous treatment" of the Chinese only commenced after the vessel's arrival there; however, it may not be amiss—as a test of the value of some of Captain WEBBER'S sworn statements—to refer briefly to one matter he calls special attention to in his letter. It is perfectly well known to every person who has travelled on the Australian coast that Captain WEBBER'S assertion that "a most rigid inspection of ship and passengers" was made at Cooktown is simple bunkum. The medical inspection of Chinese passengers at the Australian minor ports is just about as effective as it is in Hongkong. The coolies pass the examining officer frequently at night, with their jackets open at the breast, and showing their foreheads, at the rate of about twelve a minute. A medical examination which can pass some 500 passengers in an hour can scarcely be submitted to be truthfully described as "a rigid inspection." That, however, is merely a minor detail.

On arriving at Sydney the *Ocean* was immediately ordered into quarantine to await further instructions. Now it must not be forgotten that prior to the arrival of the *Ocean* in Sydney, the New South Wales Parliament had decided that all vessels arriving from China with Chinese passengers should be put in quarantine until a report from the Health Officer should be received by the Special Committee appointed to specially investigate these matters, and should remain in quarantine until the Committee issued such orders for the guidance of shipmasters as might be deemed necessary for the public safety. We have nothing to do at present with the wisdom of this measure; it is enough for us that it was the law. That it entailed great hardships and heavy losses on shipowners and charterers may be true enough; but these are matters quite outside the scope of the present discussion. Captain WEBBER received positive instructions, as to his course of action from an authority which was entitled to obedience, and how did he act upon them? Long before the Health Officer's report had even reached the Special Committee, Captain WEBBER commenced hoisting signals of distress and firing rockets; and although positively ordered not to leave his vessel until he received further instructions, he left the ship and intercepted the Manly Beach steamer, with what object he fails satisfactorily to explain. At the time we speak of, the small-pox "scare" was raging in Sydney. For the first time in the history of New South Wales this dreadful epidemic had made its appearance in the country, and it had, without the shadow of a doubt, been introduced by Chinese. The feeling against the Chinese in Sydney—especially amongst what is known as the larrikin element—was so great that it was with difficulty that the authorities were able to maintain order, and in fact they could not at times prevent emigrants from the Flourey Land from being subjected to brutal treatment. The population of Sydney were so infected with the horrible reports of the spread of small-pox in their midst, that they appeared for a time to have lost their presence of mind. What effect, under such circumstances, could Captain WEBBER'S extraordinary rocket firing and distress signalling have on an excited populace? Is it at all surprising that first the populace and then the authorities arrived at the conclusion that all was not as it should be on board the *Ocean*? The report spread through the city like wildfire that there was small-pox on board the latest arrival from China, and the people were in such an infuriated state that had the vessel come alongside the wharf to discharge her passengers, it is more than likely that murder would have been done.

The authorities, of course, very soon became acquainted with the actual state of affairs, and there is not the remotest doubt that, had Captain WEBBER obeyed the instructions given him on his arrival, he would have received permission to proceed to his berth on the Monday afternoon. As, however, the Master of the *Ocean* appeared to believe that he could set at defiance the authority of the New South Wales Parliament, the Special Committee evidently decided to teach him that they could command obedience within their own jurisdiction. The whole affair is in a nutshell. For the troubles which were brought upon the charterers and passengers of the steamship *Ocean*, Captain WEBBER was mainly responsible by his outrageous behaviour in the face of laws which he knew right well he could not evade. The action of the Executive of New South Wales was undoubtedly high-handed; Captain WEBBER'S indiscreet conduct proved that it was to a very considerable extent justified.

In his relation of facts, Captain WEBBER states that "the ship sailed for Melbourne at 4 p.m. on July 2nd," but he does not state that by leaving Sydney Harbour as he did he broke the quarantine regulations then in force, and set the authority of the New South Wales Government at defiance. In the face of this extraordinary outrage on the laws of the Colony, it is any marvel that when the *Ocean* returned to Sydney on July 12th with the objectionable cargo of Chinese still on board, the Executive determined to teach Captain WEBBER a richly merited lesson, and to show to the Master of the *Ocean* in particular, and shipmasters generally, that the decrees of the Parliament of the Colony could not be set at naught in Sydney Harbour? During the period of the second quarantine—extending to some fourteen days—Captain WEBBER again refused to comply with the harbour regulations, and in several instances acted in a most outrageous manner, on one occasion threatening to shoot a constable from the Quarantine Station, who had received instructions to proceed on board the steamer in the discharge of his special duty. Captain WEBBER'S notorious protest to the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales did not appear in the *Sydney* newspapers until two days after the steamer left the port for Hongkong, consequently the authorities were unable to take further action in the matter at the time, although there is no doubt whatever that if he had not taken the precaution to get clear away before publishing it, he would have been compelled to eat very humble pie, notwithstanding his defiant language. By the time he returned to Sydney something like peace and order had been restored in the city, the small-pox "scare" had run its course, and the government did not consider it worth while to take any further notice of Captain HENRY WEBBER.

For whatever harsh treatment the Chinese passengers received—although that has been most grossly exaggerated—Captain WEBBER is solely to blame, his obstinate and incomprehensible conduct in the first instance causing all the subsequent trouble. The burning of the passengers' clothes was certainly an extreme measure, which the actual circumstances of the case can hardly justify; but some excuse can be made for what at first sight appears harsh and unjustifiable, when it is explained that the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales were at that time practically in the hands of the mob, and were being simply dictated to by the numerous indignation meetings which were daily held for the so-called purpose of suppressing small-pox, although in reality to prevent the Chinese from coming into the country. A panic raged in the city; and the authorities were practically in the hands of the mob. Captain WEBBER asserts that the suit of clothes and blanket supplied to each passenger in lieu of those buried were provided by the charterers, Messrs. G. R. STEVENS & Co., on the demand of the Government, who refused to release the ship unless this mandate was faithfully obeyed. We may be in error, but we have certainly good grounds for believing that Messrs. Geo. R. STEVENS & Co. merely acted as agents for the New South Wales Government in supplying the clothing, &c., and unless we are greatly mistaken, that firm has long since been very properly compensated for their outlay, likewise for the undue detention of the steamer.

We submit that Captain WEBBER'S sworn statement is a garbled, incomplete, and unreliable version of what actually took place, and in proof of our opinion we would beg to call attention to one or two matters referred to by the Master of the *Ocean* which will conclusively prove how much (or how little) actual reliance can safely be placed on the sworn affidavit of this gentleman. Captain WEBBER affirms that at 10 a.m. on the morning of June 27th, he hoisted signals of distress for water and kept them flying all day; the last of the water being served out that afternoon. Distress signals

were again hoisted on the 28th, and the authorities were informed for the first time that his condenser was out of order, and that unless a supply of water was sent, he would be compelled to break the quarantine laws. At 4 p.m. a deputation of Chinese passengers numbering about 500, "among whom was Mr. KHAM, brother to the Chinese Commissioner to California," waited upon Captain WEBBER and with tears asked if it was the intention to starve them. As the requests for water were unheeded, the Captain generously offered them all the cooked food there was in the saloon, which they declined, saying there were nearly 500 hungry people to feed. At 5 p.m. Captain WEBBER intercepted the Manly Beach steamer and told his tale of woe, stating that all his passengers had retired having had neither food nor water the whole day. At 11 p.m. orders were given to the water boat to supply the ship with water, and on the morning of the 29th at 7 a.m.—two days and a half after the vessel's arrival in port—the water was accordingly supplied. Standing by themselves, the above extracts from the sworn affidavit appear to make out a good case for Captain WEBBER. The references to the 500 starving Chinese that had neither food nor water for all that length of time, could not fail to appeal to our common humanity, until a little lower down in the Captain's statement we find the following slight inconsistencies which take us aback somewhat:—"It was never reported from the ship by me that there was no food on board, as there was more than sufficient to last another month; the ship was exceptionally well found in every way, fresh provisions and water were obtained at Cooktown, Townsville, and Brisbane, and had by my orders been freely used for sanitary purposes." What can this mean? Simply that all Captain WEBBER'S sworn assertions about 500 starving Chinese were mere moonshine, utterly devoid of the slightest foundation in fact. He is condemned out of his own mouth. The public can now see how far Mr. F. BULKELEY JOHNSON'S attack on the Government of Hongkong was justified.

In the *Taiwan Gazette* there appears an anecdote which must have peculiar interests for those whose duty or pleasure causes them to travel much in small native steamers. Rival boats ply between Yokohama and Yokosuka, and a passenger in one which was dropping behind in the race witnessed the man in charge calmly tying down the safety valve after ordering all the coal possible to be heaped on the fires. Remonstrated with, "he said it was *daijoubu*, as the boiler was new last year. The pressure gauge showed 55 kilogrammes and he said 50 kilogrammes equalled 80 lbs. English, but the boiler was quite safe at 60 lbs." As a kilogramme is 2.204 lbs. avoirdupois, it is evident there was something radically wrong in the native "captain's" calculation; but be that as it may, there can be no question some law should interpose to save unsuspecting passengers from being blown up or scalded to death through the foolhardy tricks of the men employed to run small native steamers.

It is asserted, says the *Graphic*, alluding to the differences between England and the United States with reference to Chili and Peru, that Mr. Blaine's views and aspirations on this subject meet with little sympathy among his own countrymen, and we sincerely hope that this is the case, for they are views and aspirations which if indulged in might ultimately embroil the two great English-speaking nations in war. Meantime, it is almost laughable to contemplate Mr. Blaine's picture of John Bull immersed in South American politics, because it differs so entirely from what we have hitherto supposed to be the reality. Considering that it was a conflict between nations with European blood in their veins, and whose several territories occupy a large portion of the earth's surface, the war between Peru and Bolivia on the one side and Chili on the other was regarded by Englishmen with an apathy which was almost discreditable considering the unbounded curiosity which they are capable of developing about some vulgar murder. Merchants who had trading relations with those regions were, of course, interested, and naval men watched the sea-fight (a rare incident nowadays) with a lively regard, but among the public generally "the war in South America," as it was vaguely styled, was viewed with about the same degree of languid interest as the recent troubles between the Government of the Cape Colony and the Basutos. The sympathy of the few who took the trouble to study the subject lent towards the Chilians, first because the evidence seemed to show that their enemies were the aggressors, and secondly, because they conducted the struggle with rare skill and courage. But we all hoped that this unnatural conflict might soon come to an end, and that the burden laid on the defeated party would not be immoderate. So much and no more than this was, according to our humble belief, the extent of England's interference. But we were altogether mistaken. Let us put on Mr. Blaine's patent refracting spectacles. What do we see now? Why, England, "who is always bold, energetic, and vigilant in spreading her commercial power," backing up Chili at every step, while "Peru felt the heavy hand of England upon her at every turn." "The victory of Chili throws the whole Peruvian business into English hands, in a field legitimately belonging to the United States." It is easy to see that if only a moderate proportion of Americans can be persuaded to believe these romantic assertions of Mr. Blaine, it will not increase their affection towards a country which they are at no time disposed to regard with excessive friendliness.

The appointment of Sir Henry Irving by the *China Mail* to the governorship of Hongkong has not been confirmed by Her Majesty's Government, that gentleman having received the appointment of governor of British Guiana. We observe that our contemporary tries to get out of the somewhat awkward situation by stating that "it was at one time pretty generally supposed that Sir Henry Irving would become next Governor." No person in the world—the *China Mail* excepted—ever supposed anything of the kind.

In view of Dr. Stewart's past experiences as Acting Colonial Secretary, and the circumstances connected with his resignation of that office, his re-appointment by the Administrator is an event of importance which merits more than a passing notice. We shall therefore express our views on the subject at some length in our next issue. In the meantime, it gives us much pleasure to be able to bear testimony to the careful, assiduous, and courteous manner in which Dr. Stewart has performed his duties as Police Magistrate since his appointment to that responsible and arduous office.

In noticing the movements in the Police the other day, we omitted to mention that Inspector MacKie had been transferred from Stanley to Shau-ki-wan, Inspector J. C. Swanson giving up the latter station to take charge at Stanley. Prior to leaving Shau-ki-wan, Inspector Swanson was waited upon by a deputation representing the inhabitants of the village and presented with a very handsome silk flag as a token of respect, and as a mark of appreciation for the very satisfactory manner in which he had performed his various duties during the four years and eight months he had been in charge of the station.

Major General Sargent, C.B., who is coming on by the *Kaisar*, expected here on the 31st inst., brings with him his own Military Secretary, Major F. Cardew of the Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment), which is composed of two linked battalions, the first battalion 40th Foot and the 2nd battalion 2nd Foot. Major Cardew, who belonged to the latter, has passed through the Staff College, and has had considerable service on the staff. Major Hamilton of the Buffs, the present Acting Assistant Military Secretary, will, we suppose, return to duty with his Regiment when the new Military Secretary arrives.

It is hardly likely that the article in last night's *China Mail* on the subject of "the honest and impartial government" which Mr. Marsh's arrival to assume the office of Administrator is to bring to Hongkong, will receive the approval of the community. His Excellency the Administrator is no stranger to the Colony, and it may be safely assumed that he will do his duty to the best of his ability, and in accordance with his instructions from Her Majesty's Government. Before elaborately belauding the Hon. Mr. Marsh at Governor Hennessy's expense, it will, perhaps, be quite as well to wait for the results of the Administrator's policy which is to make the future of the Colony brighter than it has been for years past. When will our contemporary understand the difference between vulgar indecency and good taste?

A WELL-KNOWN gull-bird named Chan Yat, was charged this morning before Mr. Wodehouse with damaging trees and assaulting a Police Constable and damaging his uniform trousers. Police Constable Lyons said that at half-past five o'clock yesterday evening he saw the prisoner on Kennedy Road snapping branches off trees. He arrested him, when the prisoner became very violent, refused to go to the station, and seized the constable dangerously, damaging his trousers to the extent of forty cents. A gentleman passing at the time went for assistance, and returned with an Indian Constable, with whose aid the prisoner was taken to the station. The defendant was fined a dollar or in default three days' hard labour, and to pay 40 cents for the damage to the trousers, or suffer a further day's imprisonment.

ACCORDING to the *Graphic* the decision of the House of Commons with regard to Mr. Bradlaugh was precisely what most people anticipated. It was hardly possible for the majority to withdraw from the position which they had taken with so much decision on former occasions. It may be a little difficult to understand their scruples, seeing that Mr. Bradlaugh admits the binding force of the oath, and expressly denies that he ever meant to thrust his theological or anti-theological opinions on the attention of the House. Still having repeatedly declared that he would not be permitted to go through the usual form, the majority could not with dignity have annulled their prohibition; and it may now be assumed that Mr. Bradlaugh will not be allowed to take his seat in the manner at present prescribed by law. Either the right of affirmation must be granted, or he must remain outside of Parliament altogether. There is considerable advantage in the issue being thus narrowed, and it is much to be regretted that Mr. Gladstone did not see from the beginning that the question would sooner or later assume this form. Had he proposed at once to deal with the matter by legislation, the chances are that the difficulty would have been speedily overcome, for the Tories would scarcely have liked to begin their career in Opposition by an attempt to make the oath a theological test. Whatever course they may now adopt, the duty of Mr. Gladstone is plain enough. A Liberal Prime Minister cannot possibly content to the exclusion of a lawfully-elected representative from Parliament on the ground of his opinions respecting religion. That would be to conflict with all the most fundamental principles of the Liberal creed; and there can, we suppose, be no doubt that the House of Commons will be asked to open its doors wide enough to admit Atheists. Mr. Bradlaugh, however, will have no reason to complain if this is not done at once. There are questions of far more urgent importance before Parliament, and other men in a position to his have often had to wait many years for the remedy of their grievances.

REUTER wires to-day that serious agrarian outrages in Ireland are daily increasing. Parnell and Dillon have been released on parole.

THE Visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending 26th March, 1882, were:—European, 350; Chinese, 2,843; total 3,190.

A TELEGRAM received to-day announces that a Consistory has been held at which the Pope nominated several Cardinals, amongst whom is McCabe, Archbishop of Dublin.

TELEGRAPHIC information dated London yesterday states that fighting has taken place at Galway, between the 84th Regiment and the 88th Regiment. Several were wounded.

IT is officially notified that His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to appoint provisionally, and until further notice, Mr. Frederick Stewart, to be Acting Colonial Secretary and Auditor-General.

THE telegrams from Indian papers brought on by the French mail, which are spread out with so much ostentation in our contemporaries' columns, were published in the *Telegraph* nearly a fortnight ago.

THE *Nagasaki Express* learns that Captain Waring of the *Gordon Castle*, is about to be presented with a gold watch by the United States Government, for his services in connection with the rescue of the crew of the ship *Humbolt*.

THE *Roderick Hay* undocked at Kowloon last night, and the steamship *Pouan* at Aberdeen this morning. The *Pouan* will resume her place on the Canton line this evening. The French mail steamer *Saghalien* will probably be docked at Sam-shui-po to-morrow.

SAYS the *Nagasaki Express* of the 18th inst.—Mr. Williams, second engineer of the M.B. Co.'s steamship *Gunkai Maru*, died suddenly at sea from the effects of heart disease shortly after 10 p.m. on Thursday night. He was interred in the Foreign Cemetery yesterday afternoon.

FOR acting as a watchman to gamblers and trying to corrupt the Chinese Police Constable by offering him a bribe of 20 cents to let him off, a Chinaman was sent this morning by Mr. Wodehouse to seven days' imprisonment with hard labour, the 20 cents to go towards augmenting the funds of the poor-box.

AN extraordinary issue of the *Governor's Gazette* published last night notifies that the Honourable William Henry Marsh, Colonial Secretary, having this day returned to Hongkong and taken the usual Oath, has assumed the Office of Administrator of the Colony during the absence of the Governor, in accordance with the provisions made in the Royal Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom bearing date at Westminster the Ninth day of April, 1877.

AMONG the passengers arrived to-day by the steamer *Fokien*, from the coast ports, are Dr. and Mrs. Manson, who with their family, are en route for England. On the steamer's departure from Amoy, in spite of a dreaching rain, quite a number of the ladies, visited the *Fokien* to bid adieu to the Doctor, while the Chinese on both sides of the harbour testified their regard with the usual cracker bombardment. Dr. Manson has, during a sixteen years' residence in that port, won the esteem of both Foreigners and Chinese. He leaves Dr. Ringer (late of Formosa) in medical charge of the hospitals.

THE master of cargo boat No. 279 was sent to four months' hard labour this morning, by Mr. Wodehouse, on the charge of stealing 170 pounds of sandalwood, the property of Jardine, Matheson & Co. The defendant had been employed removing the wood to the godowns from a ship in the harbour, and endeavoured to secure a portion for himself by secreting thirty pounds at the bottom of the boat and covering it over with planks, and 140 pounds in his own cabin, under the boards used as his bed. Upon being asked by Jardine's head watchman, prior to the search which resulted in the discovery of the concealed wood, if he had removed all the sandalwood from the cargo boat, he replied that it had been all removed.

We would direct attention to the performance of Verdi's world renowned opera *La Traviata* which will be given by the Royal Italian Opera Company at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, this evening. A detailed sketch of the plot of the opera, which, we may add, is founded on Dumas' celebrated story "La Dame aux Camélias," will be found in another column. Signora Pinelli, who will appear as *Violetta*, achieved a pronounced success in this character in Shanghai, and as she has quite recovered from her recent indisposition we may look forward with confidence to an excellent impersonation this evening. We would also call attention to the second series of subscription performances which has been arranged, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns. We are glad to learn that a large number of seats have already been taken.

UNDER the heading "Rather hard to take in," a New York paper publishes the following:—Charles Dall and Harry Colton, members of the Olympic Club, were out duck shooting. While trying to cross one of the sloughs at low tide, Harry sank in the soft mud up to his armpits. It was impossible for Charles to assist him, through fear of sinking also. The tide was rapidly coming in; no time was to be lost, for in 20 minutes it would be over Harry's head. On the bank was a piece of gaspipe about five feet long. This Mr. Dall managed to get to Harry, who, stuck in the mud, put it to his mouth, and when the tide raised over his head breathed through it. For four hours while Charles went for help to the draw-bridge six miles away. He returned with ropes, and when the tide receded again rescued his friend, who was almost dead from exhaustion.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held yesterday afternoon for the purpose of swearing in the Hon. W. H. Marsh, as Administrator of the Colony during the absence on leave of His Excellency the Governor. There were present:—

Hon. WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, Colonial Secretary.
Hon. G. B. PHILLIPS, Chief Justice.
Hon. E. L. O'MALLEY, Attorney-General.
Hon. J. RUSSELL, Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. P. KYRIE.
Hon. N. CHOW.
Hon. F. B. JOHNSON.

Mr. MARSH said:—Gentlemen, I have convened the Council to-day for the purpose of having the oath administered to me as Administrator by His Honour the Chief Justice.

The clause of the constitution providing for the administration of the government during the absence of the Governor having been read, Mr. Marsh took the oath of allegiance and office.

His Excellency then said:—I have to announce to the Council that I have appointed my friend Dr. Stewart to be Acting Colonial Secretary, and he will now take the oath of office.

Dr. STEWART then took the oath and assumed his seat at the Council table.

His Excellency said there was no further business and adjourned the Council *sine die*.

DARING ATTACK IN THE HARBOUR.

A daring attack was made on a sampan in the harbour last night. The boat, it appears, was lying off Jardine's, its owner, his wife and two children being on board. About midnight, while they were all asleep, a small boat, containing six Chinese, crept up, the first intimation the sleeping inmates of the sampan had of the attack being the presence of the six men on board their boat, they having jumped from their own boat to the sampan, and were attacking the owner of the sampan with a knife, or other sharp instrument, inflicting three wounds on his head and one on his right arm, while another struck him in the face with a bamboo, bruising his cheek and closing up his left eye. Two of the attacking party also seized the wife of the sampan man, and were handling her, though not injuring her, and divested her of whatever jewellery she had on her person. The cries of the inmates of the sampan for assistance attracted the attention of the people belonging to another sampan lying near, whom the thieves threatened to kill if they attempted to call out, and who, therefore, it appears, remained silent lest they should be also attacked. The thieves, abandoning, it seems, their own boat, pulled the sampan in the direction of Tsing-tsi-tsoi, where they jumped ashore taking with them clothes and jewellery from the boat to the value of over seventy dollars. Meanwhile, the assisting people whom the pirates threatened to kill if they called out, pulled to the Police Hulk and made a report, when a Police boat, we understand, was despatched in search of the pirates, who, however, had made good their escape with their booty. Later on the sampan, containing the owner and his wife and children, was met by a Police boat, the wounded man being then sent to the Civil Hospital. He has lost a considerable quantity of blood from the incised wounds on the head, but is going on tolerably well. We hear a small boat was picked up by the Police this morning near the Golden Company's Pier at Vanchai, which is probably the one abandoned by the thieves, and which may, perhaps, furnish a clue to the attacking party.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.]

THE "OCEAN" SCANDAL.

5th.—As far as I can see, what is called the Ocean scandal resolves itself into the fact that the Australian authorities chose to make restrictive laws regarding Chinese immigration, and these fell with particular hardship on the steamers en route at the time with Chinese passengers. By the captain's statement published the other day it appears the Ocean between this and Sydney either landed or embarked Chinese passengers at no less than three ports, and what evidence is there that these facts, and especially of the Chinaman dying on board had not some particular weight with the Sydney authorities? Is that as it may be, I would ask what justification whatever is there for Mr. F. Bulkeley Johnson's exaggerated language and his sensational comparison of the treatment of those Chinese passengers which he said was "hardly ever equalled in a Mediterranean lazaretto in the days of the black death in Europe," and likewise for the blame he attempted to cast on the Governor of this Colony? It can hardly be credited, but it seems that all Mr. Johnson has to rely upon for his indictment is the delay in supplying water to the Ocean on her arrival. Permit me to examine this briefly. The Ocean arrived at Sydney on Sunday, June 26th and with only sufficient water on board to supply the passengers' needs to the afternoon of the 27th. Although application was constantly made for water, it appears that it was not until the afternoon of the 28th that the authorities were informed there was anything wrong with the condenser of the steamer. Naturally enough up to that time they were justified in assuming that according to the Board of Trade regulations the steamer must have had apparatus to supply the necessities of the passengers in this respect, and indeed some explanation is due on the face of it that the water supply of the steamer should have been allowed to run down to the extent it did. The authorities, directly they were aware of the real state of the case by the telegram late in the afternoon of the 28th June, apparently acted promptly enough, for water was alongside by 7 a.m. the next morning. There were always two sides to every question, and I must mention what strikes me as a personal prejudice of Captain Webb's own statement, but there is not an iota of evidence, as far as I can see, by which the Head of the Executive of this Colony can be held to blame, or which justifies the high-flown language of the irrepressible Mr. Johnson. It only affords another further conclusive proof of the rashness which so frequently characterizes the statements of this gentleman, to which I am glad to see you have so fearlessly alluded in your independent journal.—Yours &c.

ANTI-HUMBLED.
Hongkong, 29th March, 1882.

THE DEFENCES OF HONGKONG.

5th.—In looking over the series of articles entitled "Our Defences," a notable omission is to be observed in regard to the distribution of artillery destined for offensive purposes alone. If any one takes a map of this island, together with charts of the surrounding waters, it will readily be seen, by the engineer's eye at least, that no provision has been made for fortifying and rendering unapproachable that portion lying North of the Lyceum Pass. During the Russian war there was great activity shown in all departments of the Engineering Service, yet, considering the vast value of the property in Hongkong, it is strange that no means have been taken to beat off a hostile fleet from the other side of the island. A fleet of war vessels accompanied by

two or three mortar boats could, in an hour's time, reduce Hongkong to ruins, lying comfortably out of range of the few guns which might be hastily mounted when this design should be discovered. The pans and mortars of the Federal fleet off Charleston, S.C., in 1863, threw their fifteen-inch shells, a tremendous engine of destruction, into the city at a distance of from five and a half to six miles, and as the firing progressed and greater accuracy was obtained, individual buildings even were aimed at and struck with but few misses. Artillery and the practice thereof have progressed with equal rapidity with the other branches of the art of war, and it is not too much to say that Hongkong, with its present defences, would be much better accounted for than was Charleston or even Swatow.

It must be remembered that a work is no stronger than its weakest point, an axiom well looked to by modern engineers, besides which the valuable accumulation of experience teaches men what not to do as well as to outline their duties. Most officers of experience know very well that attacks are generally made from the least suspected direction, and no one can conceive a hostile squadron entering the harbour only to suffer as much if not more damage than they inflicted. Any cautious mind will see the necessities of the above suggestions, and would also recommend the erection of heavy batteries commanding the surrounding waters. They need not be masked by the appearance of hard granite on the island could easily be made use of in constructing embankments of loose sand and stones behind which might be mounted 12 or even 18-inch guns. The probability of war is, indeed, distant, but the ever increasing wealth and interests of this Colony ought to awaken the desire for perfect safety in the minds of the business community especially.

AMERICAN.

"LA TRAVIATA."

"La Traviata" is a story of devotion, self-sacrifice, repentance, and death by slow disease. A young girl running through a career of extravagance and dissipation in Paris, but who keeps her heart whole in the midst of every temptation, falls suddenly in love, and awakened to the follies of her past life, flies from the world with her lover, and passes her days with him in retirement. The father of the lover discovers her retreat, visits her, and expatiating on the ignominy of her present existence, and the ruin entailed upon his son's future prospects, prevails upon her, after a severe struggle between duty and affection, to resign him. She quits her lover, distracted and surprised, while she herself is almost heart-broken. A more insidious enemy, however, than a broken heart is preying on her vital powers. Consumption, the premonitory symptoms of which had already given her frequent warnings, assumes its most alarming form, and she awaits her death with resignation and hope. She lives, nevertheless, to be reconciled to her lover, and to learn that his father, softened by her remorse and devotedness, has consented to their union.

The opera opens with a *fête* at the house at *Violetta*. Among the guests assembled is *Alfredo Germont*, a young gentleman of fortune, who has loved *Violetta* in secret. The introduction consists of a double chorus with responses from *Violetta*, *Flora Bervoise*, and the *Marquis d'Obigny*. At supper *Alfredo* sings, with *Violetta* and the chorus, the brindisi, "Libiamo, nel calice." The incidental music in which *Alfredo* declares his love for *Violetta*, leads to the tenor air, "Un di felice," *Alfredo* recalls the happiness of the day he first saw *Violetta*, and the impression she made on him. *Violetta* coquets with him, and laughs at the favour of his passion. Nevertheless, she presents him with a bouquet on his departure. The *stretta* of the introduction follows, and the guests are dismissed. *Violetta* sings the *aria*, "Ah, fors'è lui," in which she owns that her heart is at last touched, and recalls the time when hope pointed out to her a love like that of *Alfredo*. In the *cabaletta* "Semprie libero" descriptive of a life of pleasure, she determines to remain heart-whole and plunge into the vortex of dissipation. *Alfredo*, outside, sings the *andante*, and the first act terminates.

In the second act, *Violetta* and *Alfredo* are living in retirement, at some distance from Paris. *Alfredo* enters from a shooting excursion, and sings the air, "Di miei bollenti spiriti," in which he avows his unchanging affection for *Violetta*, and expresses his rapture at her devotion. *Alfredo*, *Violetta*'s waiting-woman, enters in a travelling dress, and *Alfredo* learns that she has been to Paris to sell, by her mistress's desire, her jewels, to defray the expenses of their establishment. *Alfredo*, stung with remorse, gives vent to his feelings in the *allegro*, "Il mio rimorso," in which he blames himself for not foreseeing the consequences. He hurries off to Paris to prevent the sale of *Violetta*'s property. *Violetta* enters with *Anna* and *Joseph*, her man-servant. *Joseph* hands her a letter from *Flora*, inviting her to a ball that evening. A stranger is announced, who declares himself *Alfredo*'s father. 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